



White House Office of Policy Information

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS

Washington, D.C.

Number 2

May 9, 1983

Abortion

I have often said that when we talk about abortion, we are talking about two lives -- the life of the mother and the life of the unborn child. Why else do we call a pregnant woman a mother? I have also said that anyone who doesn't feel sure whether we are talking about a second human life should clearly give life the benefit of the doubt. If you don't know whether a body is alive or dead, you would never bury it. I think this consideration itself should be enough for all of us to insist on protecting the unborn.

- Article for The Human Life Review, Spring 1983 issue

Central America

We can no longer find excuses for doing nothing and then hope for the best, when the enemies of democracy -- Cuba, the USSR, and Nicaragua -- are actively working to subvert these nations. That's why I asked for bipartisan support in helping our Central American friends... What's going on in Central America relates directly to the security of the United States, and when it comes to that, we aren't Republicans and Democrats, we're Americans.

- Remarks at the Cinco de Mayo Festivities, May 5, 1983.

Enterprise Zones

The Enterprise Zone concept doesn't rely on more federal taxing and spending; that approach has failed. Instead, it harnesses the energy of the private sector, pumping new life into depressed areas. Rather than creating jobs in Washington, Enterprise Zones will produce results where they're needed, right in our local communities.

- Remarks at the Cinco de Mayo Festivities, May 5, 1983.

Fairness

May I remind our critics: Those who saddled this nation with double-digit inflation, 21.5% interest rates -- the highest in more than 100 years -- the worst tax in our peacetime history, are the last people to be giving sermons on fairness and compassion.

- Remarks to the National Rifle Association, May 6, 1983.

Gun control

Guns don't make criminals. Hard-core criminals use guns. And locking them up, the hard-core criminals, and throwing away the key is the best gun control law we could ever have.

- Remarks to the National Rifle Association, May 6, 1983.

Mexican Americans

Americans of Mexican descent are taking their places throughout the professions as doctors and lawyers and teachers and business executives... In government you're shouldering an ever-increasing responsibility. I am proud that our Administration has been able to appoint so far 130 Hispanics to high-level positions in our government.

- Remarks at Cinco de Mayo Festivities, May 5, 1983.

Nuclear Freeze

During this debate, it became apparent to more and more members of the House that an immediate freeze, while superficially appealing, is fundamentally flawed. For more than 30 years, we have maintained world peace because the United States maintained effective forces of deterrence; we must not take any steps that would disrupt the highly sensitive arms reduction negotiations underway in Geneva.

- Statement in reaction to the House passage of the nuclear freeze resolution, May 5, 1983.

Reaganomics

I see inflation down, interest rates down, tax rates being cut, industrial production and productivity up, housing starts and auto sales up and workers being called back, 250,000 more people put to work last month -- Now that our program is doing what we said it would, I have to ask our critics, how come they're not calling it Reaganomics anymore?

- Remarks to the National Rifle Association, May 6, 1983.